Executive Summary of Speech Document Changes for 2024-2025

Philosophy of Speech Standards - Stoa is committed to high standards of ethics and accountability and believes that the Event Rules, Script Submission, Judge Orientation, and Adjudication process advance these goals. This document has been created to outline the philosophy behind all of these processes.

Qualifying percentage change for Impromptu - For impromptu, students will now need to rank in the top 25% for the checkmark.

Ballots:
1. Reworked minimal wording on Extemp, Apologetics, and Mars Hill ballots

Rules:

1. If a Presentation Rule had subjective language (should, may, etc.) and could not be enforced, the rule was deleted. The removed language and concepts were then added to the Description or Goal.
2. External document needed to be referenced - Speech Citation Help Page and Mars Hill Overview.
3. Description and Goal "boxed" to highlight their importance in understanding and evaluating an event.

Event Changes:

Interps -
1. HI - Description - added "*with a focus on plot and character development*"
2. DI - Goal - added "*While dramatic elements are key aspects of the event, the selections do not need to be tragic or melodramatic.*"
3. Duo:
   a. Goal - added "*with a balanced performance between the two competitors*"
   b. Preparation Rule #4 - added clarifying language as to when and how to cite sources used. "The competitor can weave multiple sources together around a common theme; however, they must be verbally cited near the beginning of the piece. See the **Speech Citations Help Page."**
   c. Presentation Rule #3 - deleted and moved to "Goal".
4. DI/HI - Preparation Rule #5b - added "See the **Speech Citation Helps Page**."
5. DI/HI - Presentation Rule #1 - added "See the **Speech Citation Helps Page**."
6. OI:
   a. Preparation Rule #1 added clarifying language as to when and how to cite sources used. A - "The competitor can weave multiple sources together around a common theme; however, they must be verbally cited near the beginning of the piece. See the **Speech Citations Help Page."**
   b. Presentation Rule #1 - added "See the **Speech Citation Helps Page**."

Platforms:

1. Persuasive - Added to Goal "*in order to influence the audience's opinion.*

Impromptu:

1. Goal: Added "The speaker may choose to approach the prompt in any way, but the prompt must be the central theme of the speech and not peripheral to it."
2. Preparation Rule #1 - clarified types of prompts: "Prompts should be of the same type and format for all speakers in the round (e.g. all quotations, all short phrases, all words, or all abstract concepts, etc.)."
3. Admin Rule #1 - Ensured language consistent with other limited prep.
4. Admin Rule # 7 - Clarified "The speaker may write notes on any blank paper/card except the prompt slip during preparation time but may not use or refer to the notes during the speech."
5. Presentation Rule #1 - deleted and moved to "Goal".

Mars Hill:

1. Description - language consistent with Mars Hill Overview - "*The competitor is given four (4) minutes to prepare a speech to identify theme(s) from books, movies, and other genres, discuss their appeal and impact to the culture, and then compare and contrast them with a biblical truth(s).*"
2. Goal - reworked in the following manner:
   a. Deleted Rules that were in fact Goals.
   b. Added "content is key" language to Goal similar to Apologetics.
   c. " *The competitor learns to relate cultural references to themes common in humanity to find common ground and draw the listener to Christian truths. The competitor will share Biblical principles on a conversational, personal level to inspire reflection, understanding that God's truth is not divorced from culture.* **Content is key***: greater weight should be given to the speech content, rather than the presentation style.*
      ● The competitor should demonstrate their understanding of the selected topic by summarizing the topic and its context and addressing its impact and relevance to the culture.
      ● The content and delivery of the speech should foster a positive rapport with those who may not share the same faith, leaving the listener wanting to hear more. The competitor should not assume that the audience is familiar with biblical concepts; therefore, any biblically referenced stories, illustrations, terminology, etc., should be explained in a manner that can be understood by someone without prior knowledge of the Bible."
3. Preparation Rule #1 - added "(see **Mars Hill Overview)**"
4. Preparation Rule #3 added **"**The **Mars Hill Overview** document provides additional information for the student to consider while preparing material."
5. Preparation Rule #4 made consistent with Mars Hill Overview - "but not prewritten cards, pre-written outlines, or pre-written speeches."
6. Admin Rule # 2 - added "A list of possible topics will be given to each of the judges in the competition room."
7. Admin Rule # 3 - changed to current title "Current Media Topics"

8. Admin Rule #6 - clarified and combined with Rule "During preparation time, the competitor may only use his/her binder to prepare a single note card for presentation. No electronic media is allowed."
9. Presentation Rule # 1 - reworked - "The competitor must summarize the selected topic and its context. They will identify themes on that topic and their impact and appeal to the culture and compare and contrast them with biblical truth."
10. Presentation Rules #4, 5 -deleted and incorporated into Goal.
11. Presentation Rule #6 - deleted since duplicative of Rule #3.

Apol:
1. Goal - moved from Presentation #6 - "*The audience's acceptance of the truth of the Bible should not be assumed.*"
2. Admin Rule # 1 - made language consistent with other LP - "One judge in each room will be given the topics to distribute to each competitor along with instructions regarding room administration. "
3. Presentation Rule #1 - clarified and incorporated Presentation #6 - "The competitor must state the selected topic early in the speech and adhere to it. They must answer the selected topic and defend his/her position."
4. Presentation Rule #6 - moved to Presentation Rule #1.
5. Presentation Rule #8 - deleted and moved to Goal.
6. Presentation Rule #9 - deleted since duplicative of Rule #3.

Extemp Rules :
1. Preparation Rule #3 - Added: "or cards"
2. Preparation Rule # 7 - Added "During preparation time, the competitor may only use his/her reference files to prepare a single note card for presentation. "

Question/Topic List
1. Apologetics Questions - No changes
2. Mars Hill Topics - Updated topic list with new titles in various categories.

Room Admin:
1. Extemp Room Admin - strengthened language for Head Judge in managing the room for the designated speaker times.